

Message Text

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ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 DHA-02 AID-05

VO-03 SCA-01 INSE-00 ITFE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

DPW-01 L-03 SSO-00 INRE-00 /064 W

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O 231438Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8773

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

RUFHGVCSMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE 467

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 12946

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:SREF

SUBJECT: UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE CONTACT ON POSSIBLE REFUGEES

1. UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE SAID HALIM INFORMED EMBASSY GROUP OF TWENTY-SEVEN PERSONS INCLUDING SEVEN TO TEN YOUNG CHILDREN AND ONE PREGNANT WOMAN BEING DETAINED AT CAIRO AIRPORT BY EGYPTIAN AUTHORITIES. GROUP SUPPOSEDLY CONSISTS OF ONE SOUTH VIETNAMESE, FOUR LAOTIANS AND TWENTY-TWO CAMBODIANS.

2. GROUP HAS PETITIONED UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE FOR AID AS REFUGEES AND HALIM INQUIRING WHETHER USG WOULD CONSIDER ACCEPTING.

3. ALL ARRIVED ON EGYPTIAN AIRLINES DEC 18, BUT HALIM NOT INFORMED UNTIL DEC 22 AND UNABLE GATHER DATA AND INTERVIEW UNTIL LATE ON DEC 23. HALIM STATES ONLY ONE ENGLISH SPEAKING MEMBER AMONG THE TWENTY-SEVEN AND HIS KNOWLEDGE OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE VERY POOR. THE SPOKESMAN CLAIMS THE TRAVEL DOCUMENTS, TICKET AND REFUGEE
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CERTIFICATION WERE GIVEN GROUP BY REPRESENTATIVE

IN BANGKOK OF INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS.

4. INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO HALIM INDICATES ENTIRE GROUP TRAVELING ON FALSE DOCUMENTATION. NOTIFICATION RE SUCH WAS SUPPOSEDLY MADE BY BANGKOK INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS OFFICE TO FRENCH EMBASSY THAT CITY WHO SENT WORD TO PARIS (WHERE GROUP ORIGINALLY DESTINED). FRENCH AUTHORITIES IN TURN NOTIFIED FRENCH EMBASSY CAIRO, WHICH TOLD EGYPTIAN AUTHORITIES GROUP WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE ALLOWED ENTER FRANCE.

5. SPOKESMAN OF GROUP CLAIMING THEY WOULD NOT BE PERMITTED REENTER BANGKOK AND, EVEN IF ALLOWED RETURN, WOULD SUFFER GREAT HARDSHIP.

6. HALIM STATES EGYPTIAN AUTHORITIES ORIGINALLY PLANNED SEND ENTIRE GROUP BACK TO BANGKOK DEC 23. HOWEVER IN VIEW "SCENES" BEING MADE AT AIRPORT BY GROUP TOGETHER, HALIM WAS TOLD BY EGYPTIANS THAT GROUP WILL BE BPLIT BEGINNING FRIDAY, DEC 26, SEVERAL SENT BACK WITH SUCCESSIVE FLIGHTS OF EGYPTIAN AIRLINES.

7. UNHRC REP WILL PROVIDE EMBASSY CAIRO NAMES OF ALL PERSONS AS SHOWN DOCUMENTS, BUT NOT REPEAT NO GUARANTEE THESE CORRECT.

8. SUGGESTION MADE ALSO BY UNHRC REP THAT OTHER FALSE DOCUMENTATION POSSIBLY BEING SUPPLIED OTHER POSSIBLE REFUGEES BY SOMEONE OPERATING IN BANGKOK INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS OFFICE.

9. RECOGNIZE DEPT UNABLE GIVE DEFINITIVE REPLY IN ABSENCE NAMES AND OTHER PERTINENT PERSONAL DATA, BUT REQUIRE PRELIMINARY JUDGMENT AS TO WHETHER WE SHOULD SEEK TO INTERVENE IN THIS CASE.

10. FOR BANGKOK: WOULD APPRECIATE ANY LIGHT YOU MAY BE ABLE SHED ON THIS BIZARRE AFFAIR.
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